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Message Text

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70
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SCCT-02 AID-20 PC-04 DRC-01 /159 W
---------- 126470
R 221045Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7963
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 1331

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: IINS, CD
SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING IN CHAD

REFS: (A) USINFFO NDJAMENA 1327; (B) NDJAMENA 1228
NOTAL; (C) NDJAMENA A-27 OF MAY 20

1. REF USINFO PROVIDES OFFICIAL CHADIAN SIDE OF STORY AS OF MOMENT AND COMES AS CLOSE TO DESCRIBING GOC POSITION AS TORMENTED PRESIDENT AND CABINET CAN BRING THEMSELVES TO ISSUE. FRG AMBASSADOR (SELDIS), HOWEVER, HAS FILLED ME IN ON OTHER ASPECTS OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.

2. GERMAN EMISSARIES WALLNER AND WEVER WERE JOINED AT BARDAI FIVE DAYS AGO BY SENIOR QUAI OFF ROBERT PUISSANT. THEY HAVE MET TWICE IN PAST FIVE DAYS AT ZOUI, A SMALL VILLAGE 12 KILOMETERES NORTH OF BARDAI ON AOZOU ROAD, WITH TOUBOU/FROLINAT CHIEF HISSEIN HABRE WHO NOW DEMANDS LARGE RANSOM PAYMENTS AND PUBLICATION OF FROLINAT MANIFESTO BY RADIO TCHAD IN EXCHANGE FOR RELEASE OF
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THREE EUROPEAN HOSTAGES. ONLY HOSTAGE SEEN BY FRANCO-GERMAN

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INTERMEDIARIES (UNACCOMPANIED BY ANY GOC REP) WAS COMBES WHO APPEARED IN POOR HEALTH. HAGGLING OVER RANSOM HAS RESULTED IN TENTATIVE FRG DECISION TO PAY DM 3 MILLION FOR RELEASE OF DR. STAEWEN. SELDIS UNCERTAIN OF SIZE OF FRENCH AGREEMENT RE COMBES AND MADAME CLAUSTRE. FRANCO-GERMAN DELEGATION ALSO AGREED TO PUBLICATION OF FROLINAT MANIFESTO IN EUROPE ALTHOUGH THEY NEGOTIATED TONED-DOWN VERSION OF ORIGINAL HABRE SUBMISSION.

2. PUISSANT, WALLNER AND WEVER RETURNED N'DJAMENA MAY 20. AFTER MUCH RESISTANCE, SELDIS SAYS, TOMBALBAYE AGREED TO RECEIVE HIMSELF, NEW AMBASSADOR TOUZE AND THREE EMISSARIES MORNING OF MAY 21. TOMBALBAYE, ASSISTED BY FON MIN DORALTA, INT MIN YAKOUMA AND DEF MIN MORBAYE, PROTESTED INTENDED RANSOM PAYMENTS, INSISTED HOSTAGES HAD SELVES TO BLAME FOR PLIGHT, ALLEGED THEY WERE IN LEAGUE WITH TOUBOU REBELS (WHOM STAEWEN HAD TREATED), CLAIMED COMBES AND MADAME CLAUSTRE INVOLVED IN ILLICIT TRYST, REFUSED TO PUBLISH REBEL MANIFESTO BUT FINALLY GAVE FRENCH AND GERMANS FREE HAND IN NEGOTIATING LIBERATION OF HOSTAGES PROVIDED THEY ARE REMOVED FROM CHAD AND NEVER RETURN. WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE THEY ALSO AGREED TO LET FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES BE SENT TO HOSTAGES. AMBASSADORS REJECTED SCURRILOUS ACCUSATIONS AGAINST HOSTAGES AS UNSUPPORTED EXCEPT STAEWEN'S OCCASIONAL TREATMENT OF KNOWN REBELS.

4. SELDIS SPOKE ADMIRINGLY OF FIRM EXPOSITION OF CASE BY TOUZE (WHO PRESENTED CREDENTIALS ONLY FIVE DAYS AGO). TOUZE STRESSED EXTREMELY BAD IMPRESSESION GOC ATTITUDE WOULD MAKE ON NEW GOF AND URGED TOMBALBAYE GET OFF ON RIGHT FOOT WITH GISCARD. BY AGREEMENT SELDIS AND TOUZE CONCEALED TRUE AMOUNT OF RANSOM AGREED (CITING FIGURE ABOUT ONE-FIFTH AS LARGE) AND DID NOT MENTION THAT EMISSARIES HAD GIVEN FIRM UNDERTAKING TO PUBLISH MANIFESTO WHEN GOC OBJECTED THAT THIS WOULD BE VIEWED AS HOSTILE ACT.

5. WALLNER, WEVER AND PUISSANT DEPARTED FOR EUROPE THIS MORNING FOR FINAL APPROVAL OF GOF AND FRG BUT ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO CHAD (PROBABLY DIRECTLY TO BARDAI) FOR RANSOM PAYMENT, LIBERATION AND REPATRIATION OF HOSTAGES BEFORE END OF WEEK.

6. AMERICAN INVESTORS ROOSA AND KLINEBERGER WHO SAW TOMBAL-BAYE JUST AFTER FRANCO-GERMAN CONFRONTATION TELL ME PRESIDENT CONFIDENTIAL

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LOOKED LIKE "PRETTY SICK MAN".

7. COMMENT: AS WE HAVE BEEN REPORTING, TOMBALBAYE HAS GIVEN ALMOST NO TIME TO ANYTHING ELSE FOR NEARLY TWO MONTHS BUT "ECOLE DES CADRES" OF MNRCS. EVERYTHING (INCLUDING DROUGHT-RELIEF) HAS BECOME MORE NEGLECTED THAN USUAL. IN FACE OF MOST PUBLICIZED AND EMBARRASSING ANTI-GOC INCIDENT IN RECENT YEARS HE HAS REACTED WITH BEWILDERMENT, ANGRY FRUSTRATION AND

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INDECISION. HE SEEKS TO BLAME OTHERS WHEREAS HE MUST REALIZE
HIS FAILURE TO PURSUE PEACE TALKS INITIATED IN JANUARY BY TOUBOU
CHIEFS GAVE SMALL GROUP OF FROLINAT MILITANTS BREATHING SPACE
TO ORGANIZE BARDAI RAID AND BLOCK PROSPECTIVE PEACE AGREEMENT
AFTER EIGHT YEARS OF INSURRECTION. ANTICIPATED PUBLICITY BARRAGE
ATTENDING RELEASE OF HOSTAGES AND PUBLICATION OF FROLINAT MANI-
FESTO WILL ONLY SERVE TO EXACERBATE TOMBALBAYE'S FRUSTRATION AND
GIVE RISE TO RISK OF ILLOGICAL COUNTERMEASURES.
MULCAHY

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